

AC
COMICS
NO. 4
\$5.95

JUNGLE GIRL

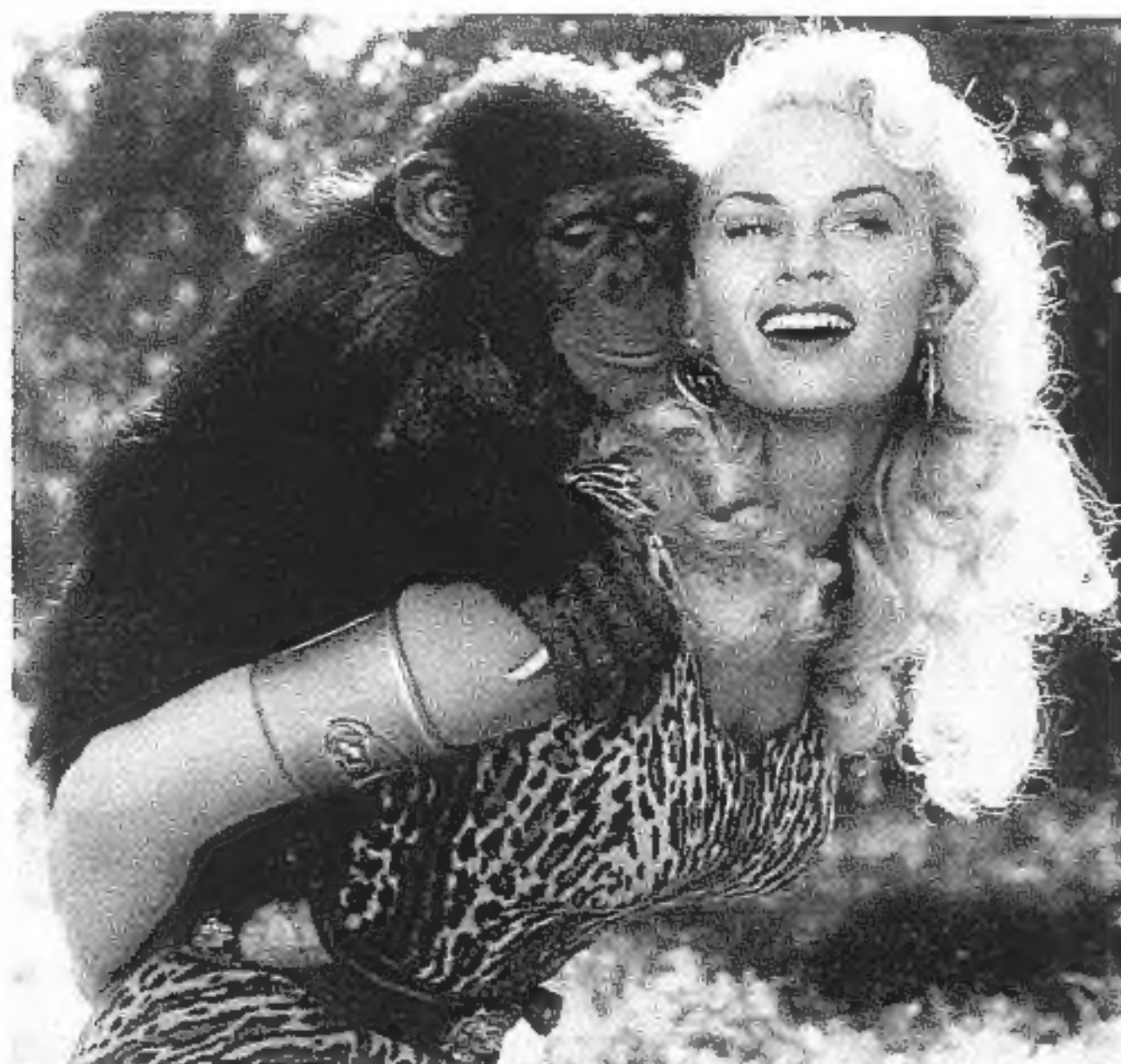
RETRO COMICS™



TARA®

garby 97

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TARA

JUNGLE SHE-CAT!

GUEST STARRING

DARKSHADE!

ON HER PRIVATE ISLAND THAT SHE HAS NAMED **DARK CONTINENT**, TARA FREMONT IS TRULY MISTRESS OF ALL SHE SURVEYS. A STAUNCH ENVIRONMENTALIST, THIS HEADSTRONG YOUNG WOMAN CONVINCED HER MILLIONAIRE FATHER, T. C. FREMONT, TO CREATE THIS AMAZING WILD LIFE PRESERVE FOR ALL TROPICAL ANIMALS.

TODAY, HOWEVER, SHE WILL ENCOUNTER A SPECIES NOT LISTED IN ANY ZOOLOGICAL TEXT--- A DEADLY HYBRID CREATURE THAT WILL MAKE HER THEIR CAPTIVE!

THAT SCREAM
THAT'S NOT AN
ANIMAL... IT'S A
WOMAN'S
VOICE!

SOUNDS LIKE
SHE'S BEING
ATTACKED!



by
**BILL
BLACK**

PIECE OF THE BEAST - MAN

IN THE TWILIGHT SKY, HOVERING
OVER THE DARK CONTINENT IS
AN EERIE APPARITION. IT IS THE
PARANORMAL ENTITY KNOWN TO
MAN AS *DARKSHADE* --- OR
RATHER IT IS AN *ASTRAL*
PROJECTION OF THAT HERO.

MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB
AND ALREADY I'VE FOUND
TROUBLE! THAT WAS
DEFINITELY A WOMAN'S
SCREAM I HEARD BELOW
AND THAT MEANS SOMEBODY
NEEDS *HELP!*

UNFORTUNATELY, I
CANNOT UTILIZE
THE FULL POWERS
OF *DARKSHADE*
UNTIL AFTER
NIGHTFALL. HERE, IN
THE WANING RAYS
OF SUNSET, I CAN
BARELY MANAGE TO
SEND AN *ASTRAL*
PROJECTION TO
OVERVIEW THE
ISLAND.

THIS ISLAND--- *T. C. FREMONT'S*
TESTAMENT TO NATURE. I
WONDERED WHY A TYCOON
WOULD CONCERN HIMSELF WITH
JUNGLE ANIMALS, THEN I
LEARNED ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER,
TARA.

SHE CONVINCED HIM THAT HE
OWED THIS TO THE WORLD...
TO MAKE AMENDS FOR ALL
THE CONCRETE
MONSTROSITIES HE'S
ERECTED. MUST BE QUITE
A GAL!

FREMONT WILL GIVE THOUSANDS OF ANIMALS A NEW CHANCE AT SURVIVAL. BUT CAN HE OFFER THE SAME CHANCE TO ROGER BRANT?

WHEN I INTERVIEWED FOR THE ART DIRECTOR JOB THIS AFTERNOON, HE SEEMED IMPRESSED.

I LIKE YOU, BRANT! YOU'VE GOT **GUTS!** MOST MEN WOULD JUST GIVE UP AFTER LOSING THE USE OF THEIR LEGS, BUT NOT YOU, I RESPECT THAT. IN ADDITION TO YOUR EXCELLENT PORTFOLIO, THAT'S A BIG PLUS.

THANK YOU, MR. FREMONT, BUT JUST WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH THAT WOULD NEED THE TALENTS OF AN ARTIST?

A VIET NAM VET IN A WHEEL-CHAIR IS NOT MUCH USE TO MOST FOLKS. FREMONT MUST BE DIFFERENT.

YOU MEAN WHY IS AN INDUSTRIAL TYCOON INTERESTED IN ANIMALS? WELL, ACTUALLY IT WAS MY DAUGHTER WHO WISED ME UP TO THE NECESSITY OF **POLLUTION CONTROL** AND **PRACTICING ECOLOGY.**

TARA GOT ME TO CLEAN UP OUR FACTORIES AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE.

"SHE CONVINCED ME THAT ALL LIFE ON THIS BEAUTIFUL PLANET IS PRECIOUS... THAT THERE WOULD BE A TIME WHEN FUTURE GENERATIONS WOULD ONLY KNOW JUNGLE ANIMALS FROM PICTURES TAKEN IN THE PAST... THAT TODAY MANY SPECIES ARE BECOMING **EXTINCT**, BEING KILLED FOR THEIR COMMERCIAL VALUE. SHE KNEW THAT I HAD THE FINANCES AND THE CLOUT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM."

"I PURCHASED THIS GROUP OF SMALL ISLANDS--- HAD MY CONSTRUCTION CREWS DREDGE FILL DIRT TO CONNECT THEM ALL. WE'VE CREATED AN ISOLATED **CONTINENT** WHERE WILD ANIMALS COULD THRIVE AND BE SAFE FROM **HUNTERS** AND **POACHERS**. BUT THERE IS A **PRACTICAL** SIDE TO THE **DARK CONTINENT** AS WELL."

"I MAY BE PHILANTHROPIC, BUT I'M NO FOOL. FREMONT INDUSTRIES WILL MAKE MONEY OFF THE TOURIST ATTRACTION ASPECT OF THE PROJECT. A MONORAIL SYSTEM WILL TRANSPORT VISITORS FROM A RESORT ISLAND TO THE **DARK CONTINENT**. THEY MAY VIEW AND PHOTOGRAPH THE ANIMALS BUT NO VISITOR CAN DISEMBARK."

THAT'S WHERE **YOU** COME IN, BRANT. I NEED A TOP-NOTCH DESIGNER TO PLAN OUR SALES BROCHURES AND LAUNCH A WORLD WIDE ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN--- AN ARTIST WITH TALENT, GUTS AND FORESIGHT. ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

I SAY WE'VE GOT A **DEAL!** AND WHEN DO I GET TO MEET YOUR **DAUGHTER?**

"I HOPE IT WASN'T TARA'S SCREAM THAT I HEARD!"



BUT TARA FREMONT IS NOT THE SCREAMING TYPE...

T.C. HIRED CHARLES LAMBERT AND HIS FINANCEE, JANIS LAWSON, AS CARETAKERS. THEY HAVE BEEN MISSING IN THE JUNGLE FOR DAYS!

AND THAT SCREAM SOUNDED LIKE JANIS!

IT CAME FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE CLIFFS!

SPLASH!

WITHOUT AN INSTANT'S HESITATION, TARA HURLS HER LITHE FORM FROM THE CRAGGY PRECIPICE.

THAT SCREAM WAS FOLLOWED BY A SPLASH! THE RIPPLES IN THE LAGOON INDICATE JANIS MUST BE UNDERWATER!

AND FLUMMETS INTO THE WARM, CLEAR WATERS OF THE LAGOON 80 FEET BELOW.

SPLASH!

IT IS JANIS! BUT WHAT IS THAT THING REACHING OUT FOR HER?



A GIANT
TENTACLE!
SOME HUGE
CREATURE IS
PULLING JANIS INTO
THAT CAVE! BUT
THERE'S NEVER
BEEN SUCH A
CREATURE IN
THE LAGOON!



THERE HAD
BETTER BE AN AIR
POCKET IN THIS CAVE
CAN'T HOLD MY BREATH
FOREVER!



ANNNH!
AIR! BUT
WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO
JANIS? SHE
COULDN'T
HOLD HER
BREATH AS
LONG AS
I CAN!



TARA HAS EMERGED IN A CAVERN AT THE BASE OF
THE CLIFF. THERE AHEAD OF HER, AMAZINGLY
ENOUGH, IS HER CARETAKER--- SAFE AND SOUND!

THIS MAKES NO
SENSE! THAT
MONSTER HAD
HER IN ITS GRIP.
HOW COULD SHE
GET UP THERE?

OOHHH!



AS TARA APPROACHES THE SEMI-CONSCIOUS GIRL, HER SENSES WARN HER THAT SHE IS BEING WATCHED.



SUDDENLY, TARA IS GRABBED FROM BEHIND BY A CREATURE THAT IS NEITHER MAN NOR BEAST... BUT RATHER SOMETHING INBETWEEN!



SENSING THAT THIS FEMALE POSSESSES UNUSUAL STRENGTH...

... THE BEAST MAN PRESSES HIS ADVANTAGE.



BUT TARA IS NOT EASILY DEFEATED!

TRY TO SNAP MY BACK, WILL YOU!

YOU'D BETTER HOPE I NEVER GET LOOSE, DOGFACE!



LATER, WHEN TARA'S SENSES RETURN, SHE SEES THAT SHE HAS BEEN TRUSSSED UP BY THE SUB-HUMAN CAVE DWELLERS---



UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE JUNGLE GIRL, THERE WAS A SECOND BEAST MAN!

BUT, DEEP IN THE CAVERNS, AN EVEN WORSE FATE AWAITS JANIS LAWSON!

IT WAS TOLD IN ANCIENT PROPHECY THAT SOME DAY THE SUN-HAIRED VIXEN WOULD COME TO US. TODAY THAT PROPHECY IS FULFILLED!

NO! LET ME BE! TURN ME LOOSE!



IT IS USELESS TO DEFY YOUR FATE. BRING HER TO THE CAVE OF WHIRLING WATERS!



SUN-HAIR
WILL BE
SACRIFICED
TO THE GOD
OF MANY
ARMIES!

YOUR DEATH
WILL PLEASE
THE GREAT
ONE THAT
DWELLS
BELOW!
THUS WILL WE
BE PRO-
TECTED BY
THE GREAT
ONE'S
POWER
FROM
OUTSIDERS
ABOVE!

EVEN NOW THE SURFACE
PEOPLE ABOVE GROW IN
NUMBER! THEY MUST BE
STOPPED BEFORE THEY
FIND OUR DWELLING
PLACE!

DIE,
SUN-HAIR,
DIE!

AS TARA STRUGGLES TO FREE HERSELF, SHE IS STARTLED TO SEE ANOTHER HUMAN APPROACH FROM THE DARKNESS.

CHARLES LAMBERT! THEN THE SUBTERRANEANS CAPTURED YOU, TOO! HOW IS IT YOU ARE FREE TO MOVE ABOUT?

AS LONG AS I DO WHAT I'M TOLD, I'VE FREEDOM OF THE CAVE. BESIDES, THEY GUARD THE ONLY ROUTE TO THE SURFACE. JANIS WAS SEARCHING FOR ME BUT NOW THEY'VE GOT HER!

NOT MUCH OF A MAN ARE YOU, LAMBERT? YET JANIS RISKED HER LIFE TO FIND YOU. I SEE YOU HAVE A KNIFE. QUICKLY CUT ME FREE BEFORE THE BEAST MEN COME BACK. I CAN DO YOUR FIGHTING FOR YOU!



THANK GOD YOU FREED ME! THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE. I'LL TRY TO SAVE JANIS WHILE YOU USE THAT BLADE AGAINST THE GUARDS TO OPEN UP THAT ESCAPE ROUTE FOR THE THREE OF US!

ALL RIGHT TARA. YOU'VE LEARNED MY LESSON. IF YOU RESCUE JANIS, I'LL GET US OUT OF HERE!



WHERE HAVE THEY TAKEN JANIS?

TO THE GREAT POOL TO OFFER HER AS SACRIFICE TO A SEA MONSTER! THAT'S WHY I HAD TO ACT NOW. I'M ASHAMED OF HOW I'VE BEHAVED. I WANT TO MAKE UP FOR IT, IF I CAN.





EEEEEE!

THE MOMENT SEEMS LOST! AS TARA RUSHES INTO THE CAVERN OF THE GREAT POOL, THE CHIEF OF THE BEAST MEN ORDERS JAMES LAWSON HURLED INTO THE UNDERWATER LAIR OF THE SEA MONSTER THAT STIRS HUNGRILY BELOW!



SUPERSTITIOUS FOOLS! THAT GIANT OCTOPUS WILL NEVER SERVE YOU!

JUNGLE GIRL FREE!

GROWING!

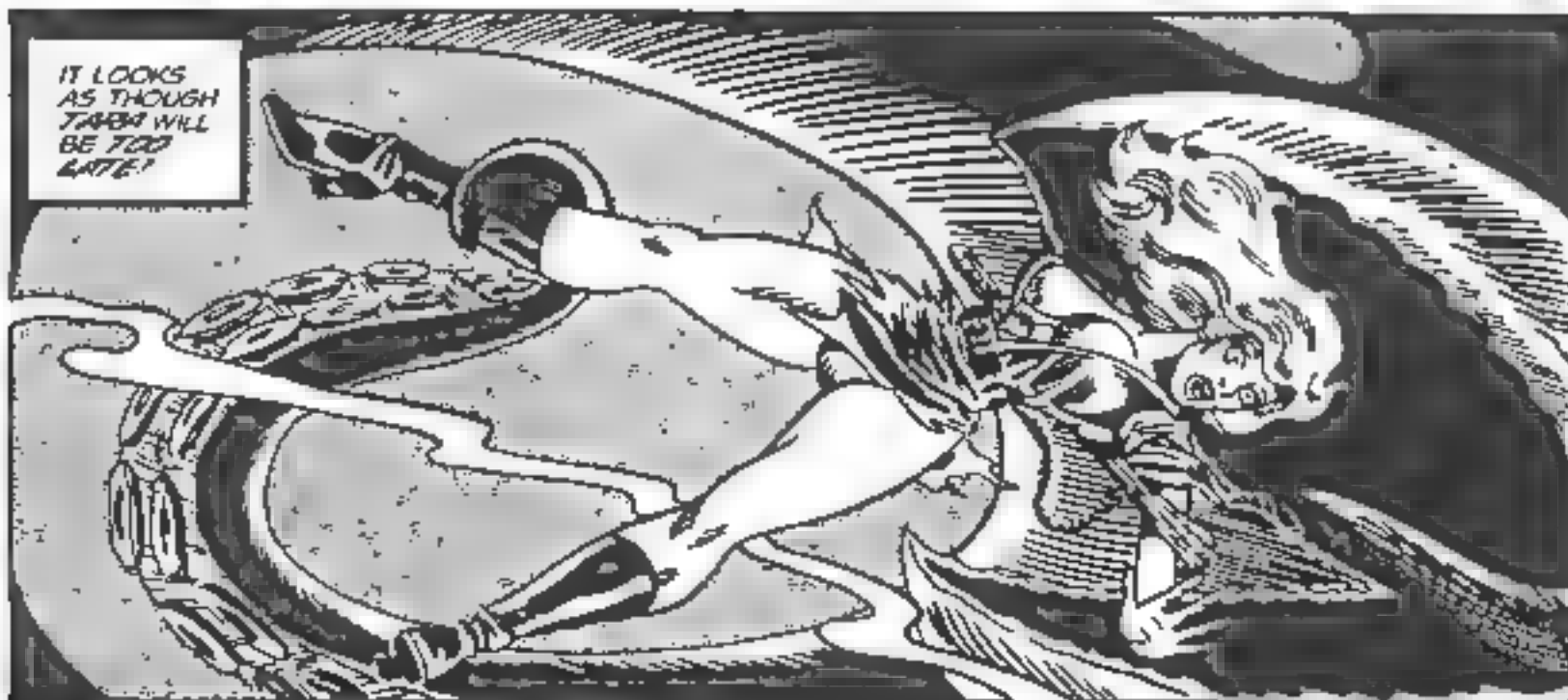
THOK!



MY KNIFE! I'LL NEED THIS!



WHEN I FACE THE TERROR THAT LURKS IN THE DEEPS!



CONTINUED IN CHAPTER TWO!

RETRO READERS WRITE!

Matthew Wiczork
120 N. Michigan Street
Plymouth, MI 48133-2133

Thank you utmostly for reviving AND reprinting the beloved Golden-Age heroes.

I'm a young Golden-Age fan who's been seeking a source like you. Your service supplies the upcoming fans-o'-vintage comics that the seasoned dealer in Comic Book Marketplace #52 hopes for (re: letters column of that mag), and will see.

Also, Mr. Black, you and your friends wonderfully and lovingly homage the great old style as can well be seen in Cat-Man Retro No.0.

I'm supporting your commitment via M&M Comic Service, Orland Park, IL.

Please send me your backlist of abundantly-craved reprints (\$1 enclosed) and keep preserving and re-reading the reads which have sown the world of comics.

Also, please let your readers know how (including grabbing all Retro releases) they can support your good work.

Dear Matthew,

Guys like you are the No. 1 reason we do these books. We want to create a new generation of Golden-Age lovers which will in turn create collectors for those "seasoned dealers" you mentioned. You can learn about the Golden-Age thru AC reprints before shelling out big bucks for originals.

As to how to help, we have pre-printed postcards available FREE if you know some people you'd like to send them to. It will give them info on what AC does to preserve comic history and tell them how to order our catalog.

Charles Sperling
Apt. 4-C
37-15 Parsons Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11354-5814

Dear Bill and Mark,

"But even with 44 pages there wasn't room for a letter col!" you wrote in the "Retrotrial" to The Original Holyoke Cat-Man and The Kitten Retro Comics No.3. Bill, yet 'm not

the sort of letterhack who takes that as a sign not to write a letter of comment.

"The League of the Rotting Dead" had it all: the return of the evil Panda (from Fighting Yank Retro #1); a delicious bad girl in the "unholy creation" the Kitten dubbed the Rat Lady; a no-less toothsome good girl in the Kitten..... the art was keen and exciting.

"Hog Wild" gave Mark Heike a chance to go it alone, and he made the most of it. Katie was as cute as a youthful ward as she was as a grown woman, and her puns would have delighted a certain Boy Wonder.....a splendid five pages, Mark.

The reprints you've run have been of high quality, and, visually, liked "The Skyway Bandits" very much. However, the writing was too upfront and too explicit: it told us more than we needed to know, and it could have benefited from one of Katie's puns.

Dear Charles,

Finally, a Retro Comic letter column! It seems reader Richie Prosch liked those puns as much as you did. He wrote, "Tell Mark I really pigged out on his Catman story in the Retro Comic. Super job! If her doesn't watch out, he'll be "hogging" all the puns from Batton Lash! We're glad you enjoyed Mark's art and story."

For reader Joseph Acevedo, seeing the AC staff switching roles is the highlight of the Retro Comic Series. "We get to see art from Bill, Mark, Stephanie, Eric and Dick."

Regarding the Australian Catman reprint, while you found the writing a bit bland, reader Daniel Patri had the opposite reaction. He thought the retro stories were "too bland" (?!?) and really liked the Aussie reprint because he finally got to read a John Dixon story.

Different strokes for different folks. Charles Sperling also wrote that it's obvious that AC feels, "you know you can just have fun with our Retro books." Although this issue's TARA is "serious" or rather without humor, most of Bill Black's retros such as FIGHTING YANK, will have some humor. The up-coming ALL HERO RETRO

COMIC annual will have all stories written by Mark Heike who will bring his own individual approach to the story telling.

In another letter, Daniel Patri was confused about the MICROMAN reprint in Retro Comic No. 2. Since MICROMAN is an AC created character, how could he have a story in the 1950's? He couldn't-- so we re-worked a story in public domain featuring another diminutive hero and turned it into MICROMAN. The original character's name is being used by another publisher today. AC's Micro-man has his own background, but we thought you'd enjoy the old 50's tale anyway.

Jim Johnston
#3-608 10th Street
New Westminster BC
V3M 3Z7 Canada

Dear AC Comics,

I really liked the Retro Comic, Fighting Yank. I liked the art and I thought it suited the story and its theme and its era (mid 50's) very well. I thought the story was good too.

I liked the way the basic storyline came through the four new stories continually. There were all kinds of clever touches throughout that made it fun to read. . .

Dear Jim,

Thanks, Bill had a great time doing his thing with this issue of Retro Comics.





JUNGLE SHE-CAT!

ARRA

CHAPTER TWO
**'INTO THE
JAWS OF
THE SEA
BEAST!'**

JANE'S IS
GONE BUT
I CAN STILL
GET THE THINGS
THAT FILLED
HER!

TENTACLES COMING AT ME
FROM ALL DIRECTIONS AT
ONCE

by
**BILL
BLACK**

INEVITABLY, TARA, TOO, IS SWALLOWED WHOLE!



I'M NOT FINISHED YET!
I'LL KEEP HACKING AWAY
UNTIL I CUT MY WAY
OUT!

CLANG!

HEH!
MY BLADE
HIT

--METAL?

CLANG! WHIRRRRRRR

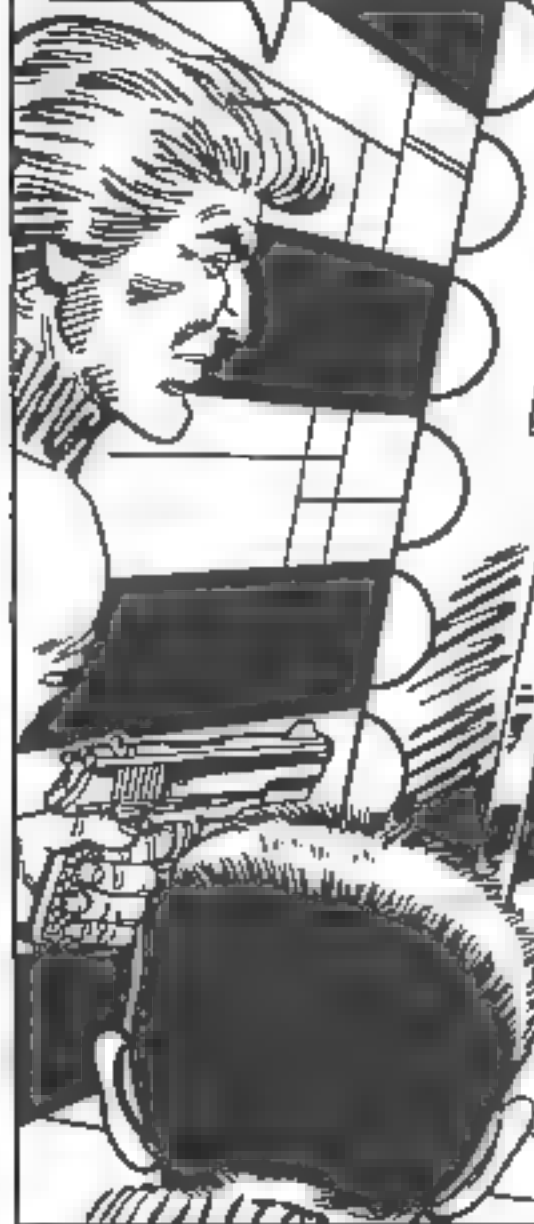


AMAZING, ISN'T IT? WHAT THEY
CAN MAKE OUT OF METAL AND
RUBBER? EVEN A GIANT OCTO-
PUS! NOW, WHY DON'T YOU BE A
GOOD LITTLE MILLIONAIRESS.

-- DROP THE
KNIFE AND CLIMB
OUT OF THE AIR
LOCK! MISS
FREMONT!

AIR LOCK??
RANDALL CROWLEY!
WHAT CHEAP SCHEME
ARE YOU UP TO NOW?

CHEAP?
DEAR HEART, I
THOUGHT THAT
YOU'D REALLY
APPRECIATE JUST
HOW ELABO-
RATE MY PLAN
IS!



I STOPPED APPRECIATING ANYTHING ABOUT YOU, CROWLEY, LAST SUMMER WHEN I GOT BOOTED OFF THE DARK CONTINENT PROJECT AFTER YOU WERE CAUGHT POACHING EXOTIC ANIMALS!



AH, IT WAS THAT VERY MISADVENTURE THAT LED ME TO THIS EXTREMELY PROFITABLE VENTURE! DADDY BIG BUCKS ACTUALLY DID ME A FAVOR



"WHILE CRUISING AWAY FROM THE ISLANDS, WE SAW A FIGURE SWIMMING TOWARDS OUR LAUNCH. WHEN WE HELPED IT ON BOARD WE WERE SURPRISED TO SEE THAT THE CREATURE WAS ONLY HALF HUMAN! I WAS ON TO SOMETHING BIG!"



IT WAS INJURED BUT WE NURSED IT BACK TO HEALTH. EVENTUALLY WE WERE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH IT. IT SPOKE A CAUDE VERSION OF ENGLISH. THE THING TOLD US THAT HE AND HIS TRIBE LIVED IN CAVES THAT HONEYCOMBED THE BIG ISLAND.

THESE BEAST MEN EXISTED BENEATH THE GROUND UNDETECTED. THEY CAME TO THE SURFACE AT NIGHT, KILLED GAME AND DRAGGED IT BACK TO THEIR SUBTERRANEAN LAIR. I FIGURED THAT IF WE ENTERED THIS SYSTEM OF CAVERNS FROM THE OCEAN, UNDERWATER, WE COULD DO THE SAME.



THE PRECIOUS FEELS OF ALL THOSE EXOTIC ANIMALS YOUR FATHER WOULD STOCK HERE WOULD BE OURS FOR THE TAKING!

AN UNSCRUPULOUS PLOT WORTHY OF YOUR METTLE... BUTCHERING ANIMALS TO FATTEN YOUR WALLET? YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD. HOW DOES THIS SUBMARINE OCTOPUS FIT INTO YOUR SCHEME?



"SWEET THING, THAT'S ONE OF THE BEST PARTS. WE NEEDED SOME GIMMICK TO GET THE BEAST MEN TO DO OUR HUNTING."



"WE FOUND THE ANSWER IN A HOLLYWOOD STUDIO PROP SALE WE PUT A MINI SUBMARINE INSIDE IT AND HAD A ROBOT CONTROLLED 'GOD' THAT COULD CONTROL THOSE GULLIBLE PRIMITIVES."



THIS ENTERS
DOUBT!

ONE OF THE AMAZING
ABILITIES OF DARK-
SHADE IS TO ENTER INTO
THE MINDS OF EVIL DOERS.

ONCE INSIDE THE MIND OF
RANDAL CROWLEY, HE IS
AWARE OF THE EVIL THIS
MAN HAS DONE.

DARKSHADE KNOWS
OF THE ANIMALS
CROWLEY HAS
SLAUGHTERED HERE
IN THESE CAVES.
NOW HE AND HIS
MEN HAVE SKINNED
RARE ANIMALS AND
PRESERVE THEIR
PRECIOUS FURS TO
BE SOLD TO RICH
AND UNSYMPATHETIC.

DARKSHADE
SENSES
THE SPIRITS
OF THE
MURDERED
BEASTS
AND KNOWS
THEY
GATHER IN
THE
CAVERNS
LUSTING
FOR
REVENGE



HE BRINGS
THOSE SPIRITS
INTO
CROWLEY'S
MIND.



WHAT IS IT,
BOSS? WHAT'S
THE MATTER?



LOOKS LIKE CROWLEY'S MIND
HAS SNAPPED! SOMEHOW I
SENSE THE ANIMALS HE'S
KILLED ARE GETTING EVEN!

TARA'S
EMPATHY WITH
ANIMALS
SERVES HER
WELL!

THEY'RE AFTER ME! ALL THE ANIMALS I SLAUGHTERED! THEY WANT TO DROWN ME. DROWN ME IN BLOOD!

CROWLEY!
THE CLIFF!



GOOD LORD!

THWACK!

HE'S IMPALED ON ONE OF THE SKINNING HOOKS!

WHAT A HIDEOUS WAY TO DIE-- EVEN FOR HIM I WONDER WHAT MADE HIM GO CRAZY LIKE THAT?

YES, IT'S AS THOUGH THE ANIMALS DID HAVE THEIR REVENGE!

LOOK, JANIS! DYNAMITE!

MUST BE USED TO BLAST THROUGH THE CAVERNS. WELL, I'LL PUT IT TO BETTER USE

EXPLOSIVES

KA-BLAM!

... I'LL SHOW THE BEAST MEN THAT THEIR SEA MONSTER GOD CAN BE DESTROYED!



JANIS!
TARA! I'VE
DISPOSED OF
THE GUARDS!
WE CAN GET
OUT NOW!

CHARLES!



YOU'RE
HURT!

THOSE BEAST MEN
PUT UP A FIGHT BUT
THAT DOESN'T
MATTER AS LONG AS
YOU'RE SAFE, JANIS!

WELL
DONE!



WE'LL LEAVE THESE CREATURES IN
PEACE. THEY ARE SAFE FROM THE
OUTSIDE WORLD JUST AS THE
ANIMALS WHO ROAM ABOVE. T.C. WILL
PROVIDE THEM WITH BEEF CATTLE
SO THEY WON'T HAVE TO HUNT



AND WHAT OF THE
STRANGE FATE OF
RANDALL CROWLEY?
DARKSMARE HAS
GONE HIS JOB IS
DONE.

CLOSE
EXAMINATION
WILL SHOW THAT
FALLING ON THE
HOOK DID NOT
KILL HIM.

IT DID, HOWEVER,
PARALYZE HIM SO
THAT HE COULD NOT
MOVE NOR SPEAK.
HE HUNG THERE
BLEEDING.

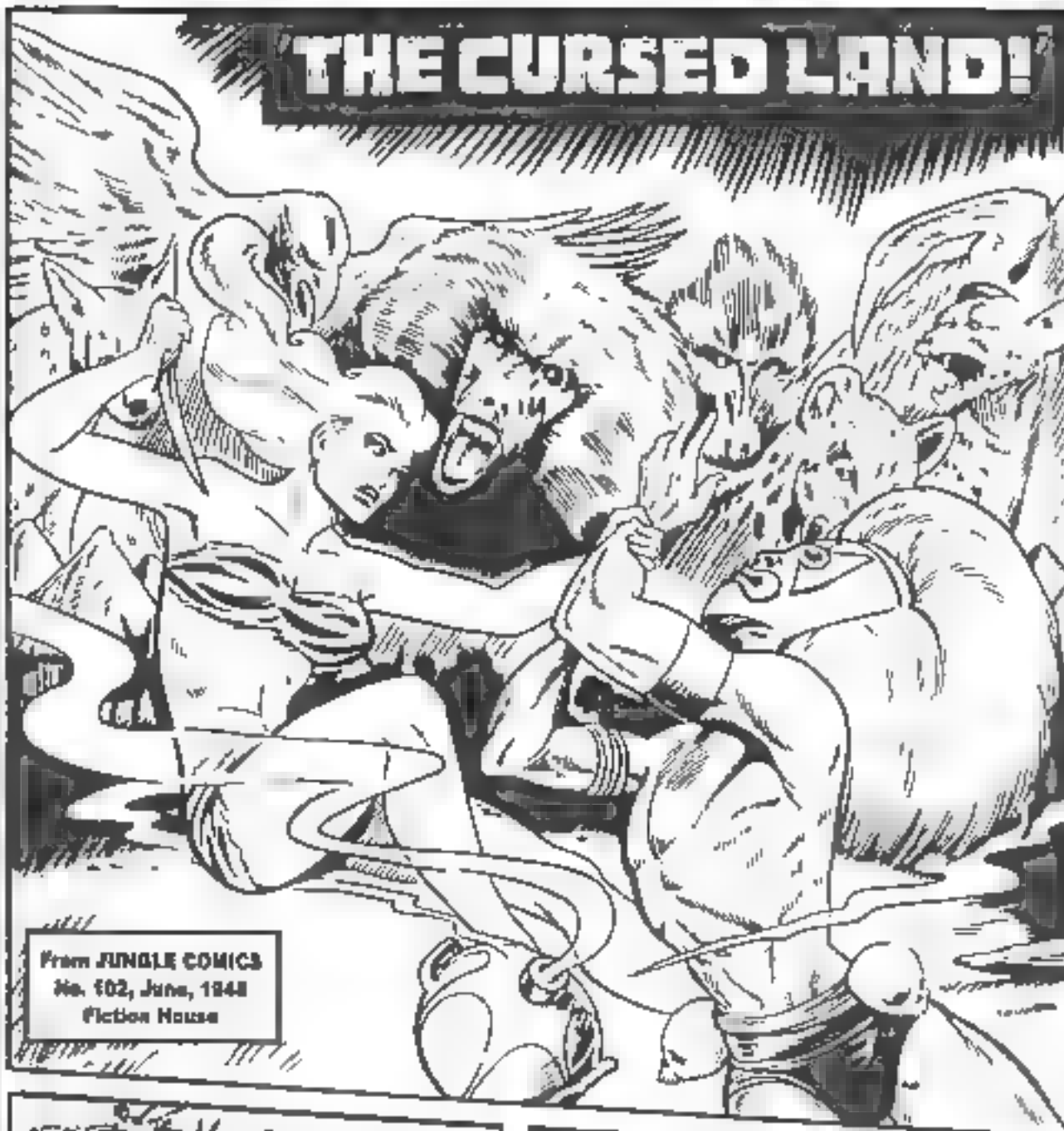
RANDALL
CROWLEY
DROWNED IN
HIS OWN
BLOOD.

THE END



CAMVILLA

THE CURSED LAND!



From JUNGLE COMICS
No. 102, June, 1948
Fiction House

"WE'LL BE RICH,
BESS. RICHER N
YOU EVER DREAMED
OF! ALL WE
GOTTA DO IS

I WON'T. I
WON'T DO IT. I
TELL YOU
GRANGE! Y'S
ROBBERY, AND-

"THEY
LANDS ARE
CURSED!
JACKALS
SHALL
BECOME
GIANTS
TO FEAST
ON THY
BONES!"
THUS
SWORB
HLOUGA,
BANISHED
WITCH
DOCTOR
LATER...



DOWN. ST DOWN
YOU LITTLE FOOL!
THIS BRIDGE IS
FLIMSY ENOUGH-
YOU'RE SHAKING-
IT! LOOK OUT!



ART BY MATT BAKER



HELP-HELP!
YOU BLASTED IDIOT!
YOU-YOULL DROWN
US BOTH!



HOLY SMOKE!
PULLED THE
BOSS IN WITH
ER! THEYLL
BOTH BE
SWEEP OVER
THEM FALLS.
SI!

YEAH, AN OSS
MERRILL CAN'T
SWIM A STROKE!
LISTEN TO ER!



HELP,
GRANGE-
HELP
ME!

HELP YOURSELF
YOU DIZZY
LITTLE WITCH!
YOU HONT BE
AROUND TO
QUEER TH'
SCHEME OF BILL
GRANGE



YOU TOO HEARD
THOSE SCREAMS,
FANG? HASTEN
QUA TRIP TO THE
MASAI RAAL
MUST WAIT!



MAYOMBA! TWO
FAIR ONES DOES THE
RIVER OF SIGNS CLAIM!
GO-GO LITTLE
FRIEND!

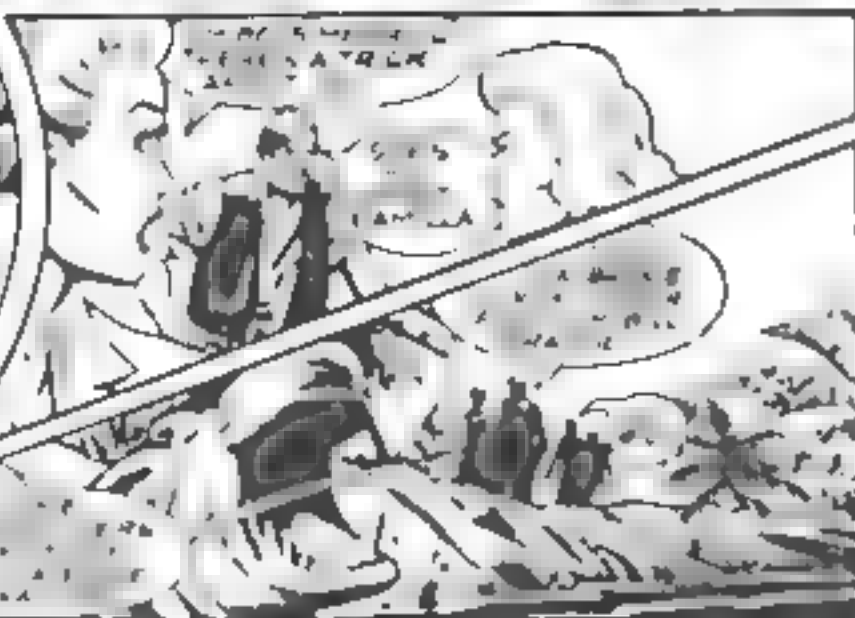


CANILLA SHALL AID THE WOMAN,
IF IT BE NOT TOO LATE! ALREADY
DO THE DEATH FALLS REACH OUT!
AND -



A CROCODILE!
OH, NO-NO!
GRANGE, SAVE
ME!

EH WHAT
THE DEVIL
WHO?



A6 ..



NO FUNK! TRY FUNK IS POWERLESS - POWERLESS AGAINST THE MAGIC OF N'LOUGA!

CAMILLA O GOLDEN ONE - LOOK! LOOK!



A JACKAL BAND! STRANGE! NOW THEY DARE BE THERE SO CLOSE TO YOUR VILLAGE FIRES!



THEY ANSWER THE CALL OF N'LOUGA! THOU UNBELIEVERS! NOW SHALL HIS WORDS COME TO PASS - THE JACKALS BECOME GIANTS. AND -



MAYOMBA! TRULY DOES MADNESS CLUTCH CAMILLA!

AH! N'LOUGA'S VOW COMES TRUE! 'TIS BLACK MAGIC!



WAIT KOLO - HEAR THE WORDS OF THE JUNGLE QUEEN! 'TIS SOME TRICK!



BUT TRICK OR NOT HORROR HOWLS ECHO ACROSS THE MASAI VILLAGE AND A KILL-CRAZED HORDE SWEEPS DOWN UPON CAMILLA AND HER FRIENDS.



20 MINUTES LATER



DOOM WHAT
WHAT HAPPENED?
HOLD FANG
FA THFUL FR END-
CHIEF MOLO SHOUTS

MURDER QUEEN!
AT LEAST
THREE DEAD THE
GANTS HAVE
GONE YET BLOOD
STAINS OUR
VILLAGE FLOOR!



IT'S TRILLY A
SCENE THAT
FELL CAMILLA'S
HEART WITH
SORROW

MY PEOPLE MURDER
O GOLDEN ONE THEY
WOULD FLEE OUR
RIBAL LANDS!



THE CURSE
THE CURSE
MIGHTY CHEE
FLEE ELSE
THE DEMONS
RETURN

IT WAS SOME TRICK
OF N LOUGA'S!

HOLD
THAT
ROUND



HE RIDES YONDER
AT FR HIM
AFTER HIM!
QUICKLY LITTLE
BROTHERS!



NAY-NAY
CAMILLA!

HE WOULD
SEE THE
MINISTERS
AGAIN



THEN COME
KILL FOR
HIS TRICKERY
WE SHALL
FEEL OUR
WRATH



MADNESS TAKES THE
GOLDEN ONE SHE
WOULD TAKE OUR
CHIEF TO HIS
DOOM

AFTER THEM
HASTEN, MY
BROTHERS!



TOP-FLIGHT QUALITY-SMASHING ACTION-ADVENTURE!



Jungle Girls

RETRO COMICS No. 4

RETROTORIAL

AC COMICS - Box 511116
Longwood FL - 32752

As it turns out, TARA is the longest running contemporary jungle girl. The genre came into being in 1938 at Fiction House Comics with the creation of SHEENA who starred in the JUMBO COMICS title. JUNGLE COMICS, named after Fiction House's pulp magazine, followed soon after and added CAMILLA to an ever growing roster of jungle girls.

The hey day for the jungle girls was the late 1940's when other publishers launched RULAH, PRINCESS PANTHA, TYGRA and even JUDY OF THE JUNGLE. Fiction House folded in 1953 bringing an end to Sheena's four color career. Atlas Comics (Marvel) was quick to launch LORNA, JUNGLE QUEEN as her blonde-tressed replacement. Lorna's companion magazines included JANN OF THE JUNGLE and JUNGLE ACTION featuring LEOPARD GIRL. These titles did not last long after the comics code was implemented.

Beginning in 1942 and running into the mid-1950s was NYOKA THE JUNGLE GIRL. Based on the Republic Pictures serial, PERILS OF NYOKA, Nyoka Gordon differed from her sister jungle girls in that she was not a wild woman living in the jungle. She was more the female white hunter type and wore safari clothes, not animal skins. Nyoka ap-

peared in FAWCETT GIRL at Fawcett. Charlton bought her when Fawcett folded in late 1953 and continued her adventures in ZOO FUNNIES and in her own title. By my count, Nyoka appeared in more stories than any other jungle girl!

In 1987, AC Comics purchased Nyoka from Charlton and continued her career with both new stories and reprints. She appeared in THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF NYOKA THE JUNGLE GIRL, JUNGLE GIRLS, CLIFFHANGER COMICS, AC ANNUAL and FEMFORCE, among others.

In the 1970's both DC (RIMA) and Marvel (SHANNA) tried short-lived jungle girl series. Paragon Publications started TARA in PARAGON PRESENTS No. 2 - DARK CONTINENT in 1970. Readers were introduced to the reven-haired "she-cat" in the story "Lair of the Beast Men" by Bill Black. That 18 page story has been slightly modified, re-linked and presented here as a retro story. Being 27 years old, it certainly qualifies.

Here we meet characters you've come to know such as T.C. Fremont and Janis Lawson. However, differences from the AC version are obvious. Tara's costume, for instance, and the name of her island (Jungle Island in AC continuity) were later changed when the character was relaunched in the 1980's. Additionally at Paragon, Tara starred in two issues of her own magazine.

When AC began the long running FEMFORCE series in 1985, Tara was with MS. VICTORY, NIGHTVEIL, and SHE-CAT from the beginning. She has been a regular for the past 105 issues.

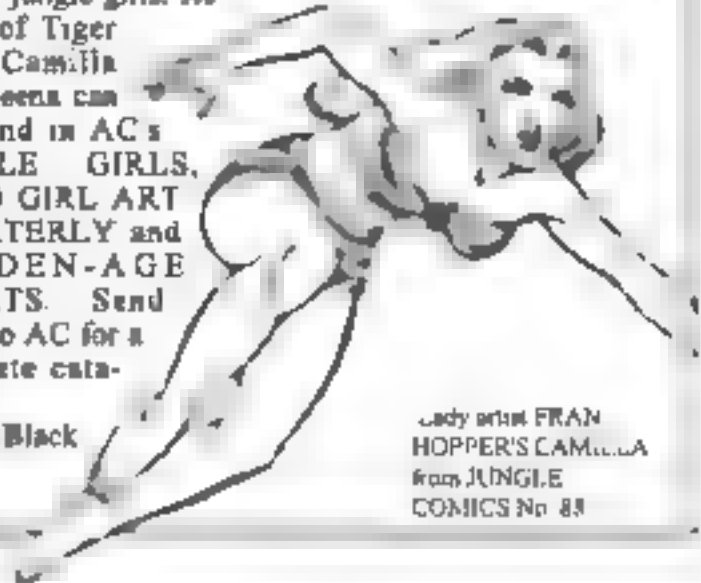
GIRLS, GOOD GIRL ART QUARTERLY, AC ANNUAL and numerous specials. She has made more comic book appearances than any other jungle girl character in the 1980's and 1990's. Most likely she has appeared in more stories than any other jungle girl, excepting Nyoka, Sheena, Camilla and Tiger Girl, in comic book history.

CAMILLA began in JUNGLE COMICS No. 1 (1940) and concluded in No. 151 (1953) when she was replaced by TIGER GIRL, the former star of Fiction House's FIGHT COMICS. She was drawn by many fine artists including Nick Cardy, Fran Hopper, Matt Baker and Ralph Mayo. Towards the end of her run her stories were cut to 4 pages in length, thanks to the ever shrinking comic book. In some cases, Fiction House edited earlier, lengthier stories down to the 4 page format. An example of this is found in the Fran Hopper tale included in this issue. The original was probably drawn circa 1945-46 but printed circa 1951.

In 1987, AC Comics obtained permission from T. T. Scott, publisher and President of Fiction House, to reprint the Fiction House line. In the past ten years AC has resurrected Captain Wings, Sky Girl, Mysta of the Moon, Futura, Star Pirate, Lost World, Dr. Drew, Senorita Rio and most of their jungle girls. Re-

prints of Tiger Girl, Camilla and Sheena can be found in AC's JUNGLE GIRLS, GOOD GIRL ART QUARTERLY and GOLDEN-AGE GREATS. Send \$1.00 to AC for a complete catalog.

Bill Black



Lady artist FRAN
HOPPER'S CAMILLA
from JUNGLE
COMICS No. 83

NYOKA ON THE ISLAND OF DOOM! the JUNGLE GIRL™

From MASTER
COMICS No. 110
Fawcett

LARRY!
WATCH OUT!

AS NYOKA THE JUNGLE
GIRL AND HER FIANCE,
LARRY GRAYSON, PADDLE
TOWARD AN UNEXPLORED
TROPICAL ISLAND, A
HUGE WAVE HITS THEIR
CANOE AND...

THOSE
MAN-EATING
SHARKS! I'VE
GOT TO SAVE LARRY
FROM THEM!

HURRY, LARRY! I'LL TRY
TO KEEP THEM OFF WHILE
YOU CLIMB IN!

SPLASH!

WHACK!
WHACK!
WHACK!

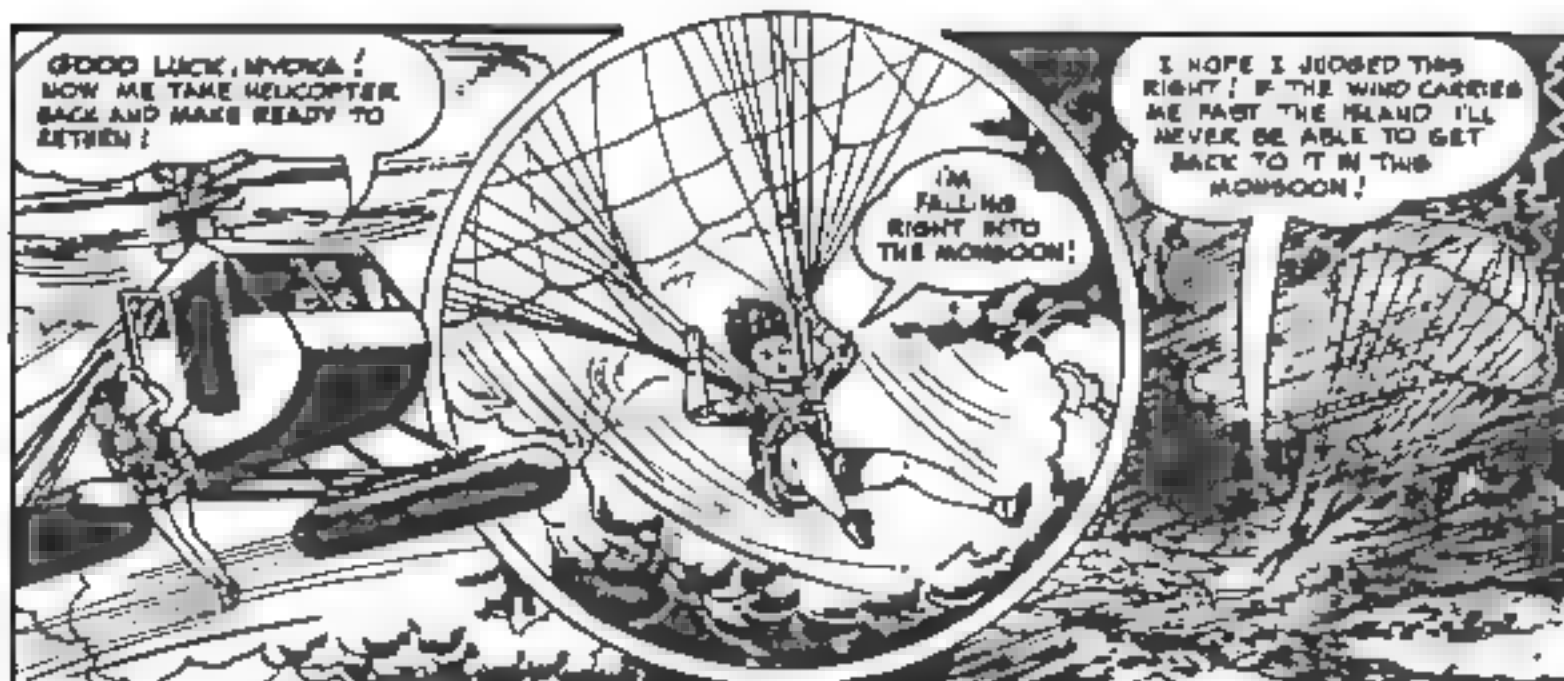
ART BY H.C. KIEFER













GOT HIM!
HE'S UNCONSCIOUS
I'VE GOT TO
FIND SOME
SHELTER!



IT'S A LOT TO WISH FOR, BUT I HOPE OUR
COMBINED WEIGHTS WILL KEEP US FROM GETTING
BLOWN RIGHT OFF THE ISLAND BEFORE WE
REACH THAT CAVE!



MADE IT! NOW TO WAIT UNTIL
THE MONSOON BLOWS
OVER!



THE MONSOON'S OVER, LARRY!

THAT'S CERTAINLY GOOD NEWS,
BUT HOW CAN I LEAVE THIS
ISLAND WITH MY LEG BROKEN
AND NO BOAT?



DON'T WORRY! HERE COME
OUR FRIENDS TO HELP US!

WE COME AS
SOON AS MONSOON
OVER!



LATER...

AND SO BECAUSE OF THESE MONSOONS, WHICH I HAVE CHECKED AND FOUND TO
OCCUR FREQUENTLY IN THESE PARTS, I DO NOT RECOMMEND THE UNEXPLORED JUNGLE
ISLAND AS A SUITABLE NAVY BASE.

AFTER BATTLING THAT TURBULENT MONSOON I'M
BEGINNING TO LIKE THE QUIET JOB OF TAKING NOTES!

4444

END

ALL HERO

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ANNUAL
NO. 1
\$6.95

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GREEN MASK

plus



PYROMAN



BLACK CORRA



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No. 2 Cave Girl Nyoka and Tara

No. 3: Cave Girl (Powell) Tiger Girl and Tara

No. 4: Tiger Girl (Matt Baker), Camilla (Bob Lubbers, Sheena and Tara

No. 5: Rulah (2 stories, & Tiger Girl by Baker

No. 6: Camilla and Tiger Girl by Baker (two stories) plus Nyoka

No. 7: Tiger Girl (Baker) Camilla (Baker), Nyoka and Cave Girl (Powell,

No. 8: Sheena, Ann and her Male & Camilla

No. 9: Tiger Girl, Camilla Sheena, Tara

No. 10: Cave Girl, Tiger Girl Nyoka, Tara

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ALL HERO RETRO COMICS ANNUAL NO. 1

Here's the biggest and the best. Retro Comic #1 features Garden-Age heroes who have never before appeared in an AC comic of their own debut in this annual comic volume. Written by Mark Healey. Mark picked the top string champions like THE GREEN MASK, THE FLAME, THE BLACK OWL, PYROMAN,

BLACK CORRA and U.S. Jones to appear in new stories set in the 1940's. Helping Mark on the art chores are Stephanie Sanderson, Eric L. and Brad Smith. He painted the spectacular cover too. Tim Mungenen and Bill Black in addition to these six new stories will be in 12 pages

PYROMAN, the 1940's Age classic from Ned's 48 HOUR 45 GREATEST CLASSICS

Run to your comic dealer to reserve your copy of ALL HERO RETRO COMICS ANNUAL NO. 1—today. (Scheduled for February 1998 release)

Jungle Girl

CAMILLA, QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE HAD HEARD THE DEATH CRIES FROM AFAR
"A RAIL IS CARRIED BY SENGAS EVIL SPIRIT - LET THE FACES ALLERS FEEL IT
WHY MY FIVE-HOLE BODY!" AND AS CAMILLA PRET TOWARD THE DISTANT SOUNDS
HER HEART WAS CHILLED, FOR SENGAS WAS THE ZOMBI QUEEN WHO COULD NOT DIE!



ART BY FRAN HOPPER



LATER, FOLLOWING
SENGA'S FAINT
SPOOR...

MY PLAN SMOKED HER OUT
OF HIDING - BUT IT ALSO
PROVED TO ME THAT SENG'S
DIVINITY IS SIMPLY A TRICK -
ELSE WHY WOULD SHE CARE
IF K'BALI BARBLED? AN THE
TRAIL-SIGN GROWS STRONGER...

HER DEN IS JUST ABOVE. BUT
I MUST TAKE CARE... I AM
ONLY ONE AGAINST HER
LEGIONS!

AS... I RESCUED YOU FOR ONE PURPOSE,
K'BALI, TO SHOW YOU AND THE
OTHERS THAT I CANNOT DIE.
COME, TAKE THE KNIFE, I COM-
MAND YOU TO KILL ME!

I-Z MUST OBEY YOUR EVERY WISH.
I...AIEE! I CANNOT LIFT THE BLADE-
MY HAND IS NUMB.

YAA!

ROWLL!

DAZED, ALMOST PARALYSED, K'BALI
STUMBLES BACKWARD...

BEHOLD! THE GODS HAVE SPOKEN -
K'BALI FALLS TO THE
KILLER-BEASTS
BELOW!

TO THOSE WHO DOUBT
ME, THEIR FATE SHALL
BE THE SAME... WHAT!
THAT SWINGING
FIGURE - CAVALLA!

THEN YOU WOULD
TEST ME, EH? COME,
TAKE THIS BLADE...
AND TRY TO KILL ME!

I SEE HER EVIL
NOW... SHE NEVER
TOUCHES THE HANDLE-
IT MUST BE COVERED
WITH A QUICK ACTING
POISON!

NO, SENG. I DO NOT
NEED YOUR WEAPON, FOR
I HAVE MY OWN! HERE,
TAKE IT, KILL ME IF
YOU CAN!

BOASTING FOOL - WHAT
CHANCE DO YOU HAVE?
NOW DIE!

BUT WITH CAT-LIKE
SPEED THE JUNGLE
QUEEN DARTS ASIDE-
AND THE DEATH
BLADE SLASHES
EMPTY AIR

MISSED! SLIPPING...
HELP ME!

THEN WITH AN ANGUISHED
SCREAM SHE FELL TO THE
TERRORS BELOW!

AIEEEEEEE!

AIEE! THE
GOLDEN WOMAN
HAS DEALT DEATH
TO SENG. WHO
COULD NOT DIE!
FLEE! FLEE!

NO,
WAIT!

I MEAN YOU NO HARM, FRIENDS.
FOR YOU WERE UNDER SENG'S EVIL
SPELL, AND HER DEATHLESSNESS
WAS ONLY A TRICK. COME, RETURN
TO YOUR KRAALS AND LIVE IN PEACE!

THE END





NYOKA™

DALY 88